re-use of water, preservation of the quality of environment, soil-moisture conservation, water harvesting practices, development of ground water etc. form part of the National Water Policy.

Mullapperiyar Dam

2702. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1750 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to convene a meeting of Chief Minister of States concerned to resolve the Mullapperiyar Dam issue; and

(b) how many hectares of land will be cultivated/irrigated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The maximum area irrigated is about 74,500 hectare. The actual area irrigated from year to year depends on the availability of water for diversion in the reservoir.

Shortage of potable drinking water

2703. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of potable drinking water in earthquake affected areas/towns/villages/cities in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to supply potable drinking water to various parts of Gujarat immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Due to the deficient rainfall